

VDSS EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL ENDORSEMENT (ECPE) PROGRAM - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Since the 1980s, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has offered workshops for child care providers on the care, development, health, and safety of young children. We are now working to establish a more structured early childhood professional development plan for Virginia and have formed a voluntary training program entitled the VDSS *Early Childhood Preschool Endorsement* (ECPE) Program which is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation of knowledge for working with preschool children. The project is a collaboration between VDSS' Division of Child Care and Development and the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA). CCWA is a partnership between J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) and John Tyler Community College (JTCC) whose goal is to serve the workforce and economic development needs of Virginia.

The *Early Childhood Preschool Endorsement* Program consists of 12 courses offered regularly by VDSS. All ECPE classes are taught by CCWA adjunct faculty. These 12 courses were enhanced with assessment tools, projects, and in some instances, additional texts to become the core component classes. Materials and procedures for participating in the Program will be distributed by instructors to interested individuals at the conclusion of each component class. Those who wish to earn the ECPE certificate must attend all of the program component courses. Interested participants will take home the assessments and project assignments, work on them at their own pace, and return completed materials to VDSS for grading. Once all 12 component classes are successfully completed, participants will be awarded the VDSS *ECPE* and may be eligible to earn three college credits. VDSS is working with the staff at JTCC to award college credit (early childhood education course CHD 120 - Introduction to Early Childhood Education) to successful candidates.

To Participate

Individuals interested in participating in the voluntary *VDSS Early Childhood Preschool Endorsement* Program must:

- Register as usual to attend component classes. (See dates and locations on the following pages)
- Attend component class.
- Receive written assessments and project assignments from the instructor at the end of each component class.
- Complete written assessments and project assignments.
- Return at least four completed written assessments and project assignments at a time to the Division of Child Care and Development for grading (participants must receive a passing score for each of the 12 component classes to receive the VDSS Early Childhood Preschool Endorsement).

College Credit

To be eligible to receive college credit, individuals must:

1. Keep all materials included in the program (participant handouts and texts, and all completed, graded assessments and projects) in a portfolio for future review. Instructions and details on the process for submitting your portfolio for review to receive college credit will be distributed to successful candidates along with the awarding of VDSS ECPE certificate of completion.
2. Have a grade-point-average (GPA) of 2.0 or better on all class materials submitted for the ECPE.

Registration forms and information about the component courses may be found in this catalog on pages 5-22 or online at: http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/provider_training.cgi.

VDSS EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL ENDORSEMENT (ECPE) PROGRAM - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Component Courses

The VDSS Early Childhood Preschool Endorsement Program consists of the following 12 courses. Each course will be offered once a year as outlined in the listing below:

Each Spring:

Part 1 - Ages and Stages of Development of Preschoolers Ages Three to Five

Part 2 - Creating an Age Appropriate Learning Environment for Preschoolers

Part 3 - Planning Age and Stage Appropriate Activities for Preschoolers

Part 4 - Guiding the Behaviors of Preschool Children Ages Three to Five

Health Screening for Child Care Professionals

Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting (4-hour class) plus complete online course assessment

Each Fall

Exploring Brain Development Part 1: Every Teacher is a Brain Surgeon (Page 18)

Reframing Discipline Part 1: From Stopping Misbehavior to Teaching Skills (Page 22)

Observation and Recording: It's Not Always Obvious (Page 21)

Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents (Page 20)

Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment (Page 22)

Self-Study

Early Childhood Theorists

Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators Online Course (can substitute for 4-hour class listed above)

If you attended any or all of the Four-Part Preschool Children's Series classes between September 2003 and December 2005, you will be given the opportunity to participate in the VDSS Early Childhood Preschool Endorsement Program.

For more information on this program please contact Deb O'Neill at: debra.oneill@dss.virginia.gov or call Joan Green at 804-726-7641.

Registration forms and information about the component courses may be found in this catalog on pages 5-22 or online at: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?83>

